

Original Article  
(Qualitative)

# The impact of higher education on political development; a comparative study in Iran and Turkey

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**Abstract**

The aim of this research is to compare the effect of higher education on political development in the two countries of Iran and Turkey in 2022-2023. In terms of purpose and nature, this research is in the category of applicable research; and in terms of method, it is descriptive-survey. The statistical population of the research includes experts and specialists in higher education and political development, and a purposeful sampling method was used to sample this population. Finally, 18 experts participated in this research and completed the valid researcher-made questionnaire. The findings of the research showed that in several factors, the higher education system has a significant effect on political development at the 0.01 level: Policy making and planning for the development of higher education, internationalization of higher education, using the experiences of developed countries in higher education management, training of expert staff and improving the level of knowledge and literacy in society through higher education, knowledge production in the education system. higher education, commercialization of university ideas in the higher education system and university's relationship with industry and society, innovation system in higher education, technological innovations, development of educational technology, independence of universities, culture building and citizenship education. Also, based on this research, some of the components of higher education affecting political development in Turkey have a more favorable situation than in the Islamic Republic of Iran: using the experiences of developed countries in managing higher education, training specialist staff, and improving the level of knowledge and literacy in society through higher education, knowledge production in the higher education system, commercialization of university ideas in the higher education system and the relationship between the university and industry and society, the innovation system in higher education, technological innovations, the development of educational technology and the independence of universities. In this article, the reason for the difference between the models of the two countries has been investigated.

**Keywords:**

higher education system,  
higher education policies,  
political development,  
mission of higher education

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## Extended abstract

### Introduction

With the introduction of the element of knowledge as the main source and capital of universities, a new window has been opened in the administration of affairs and management of organizations. Today, the online presence of universities is an important and vital issue in academic systems (Memon & Rathore, 2018). University leaders believe that by using online technology systems, they can continue the long-term superiority of universities in scientific and knowledge fields. In such a period, the creation of the flow of knowledge has become the main support, and we dare say that today universities and higher education institutions can survive in a highly competitive world if they have the ability to cope with and adapt to changes and constantly apply new ideas in the organization. Universities and higher education institutions will be more successful in responding to changing environments by creating online learning streams and developing new capabilities that allow them to perform better. Since in today's world, the university is considered one of the main institutions of the society, ignoring the university and its missions can have harmful consequences for the society. Modern societies are full of complex issues and problems that universities can be effective in solving and preventing (Palme, 2012).

The higher education system and the university institution have an impact on various aspects of human life, nations and countries, including the national and international political arena. The main and key issue is that despite the great importance and sensitivity of political affairs and political development in efficient governance and providing suitable living conditions for citizens and the extraordinary range of scope, goals, missions and expectations from higher education and universities in the country; research and analysis has not been sufficiently done on the impacts and effects of higher education on political development in the scientific sense and recognition of strengths, weaknesses, challenges and opportunities.

As a result, the upcoming research seeks to answer the following question: What effect does higher education have on political development?

### Theoretical Framework

Political development is a process that happens with the authority of the government in the society and brings its own effects and consequences. That is why political development has also been considered as change. Lucien Pai says about ten important aspects of political development, which include; a prerequisite for economic development, the policy of industrialization of the country, the practical authority of the nation-state system, legal and administrative-executive development, mass mobilization and political participation, the creation of democracy and stability, and orderly change (Harasim, 2018).

### Higher Education

Higher education systems are experiencing a new change in the "structure", "action" and "mission" of the university institution. In recent years, the fourth generation university is gradually being formed. In the fourth generation of universities, value is defined on the basis of strategic partnership, entrepreneur training and the degree of absorption of income from external sources and guidance and leadership, as well as the degree of influence on other factors in societies. Education is done based on the needs of society and students, and solving society's challenges is considered as the basis of research. International partnerships are an important part of the entrepreneurial university. Promoting risk-taking culture, creating a sense of belonging to entrepreneurship, academic freedom, valuing culture, talent management, creating a suitable entrepreneurial atmosphere, teamwork culture, introducing entrepreneurial faculty members as role models and their participation in decision-making and



policy-making, attention and valuing entrepreneurial students are among the components of entrepreneurial culture (Khodabakhsh & Taghi Pur, 2023).

Shafiei Chafi & Mahdi (2022) investigated the impact of higher education policies on political development indicators in Iran. The analysis of the data showed that the internationalization of education has a significant effect on the political development of Iran. Also, the effect of commercialization of academic ideas on the political development of Iran is significant at the level of (0.01).

Nazarzadeh et al, (2021) conducted a comparative study of quantum management, human resource productivity and organizational empathy in higher education (case study: Lorestan Universities and Lorestan Medical Sciences). According to the results of data analysis, there is a significant difference between the amount of quantum management and productivity of human resources in Lorestan universities and Lorestan medical sciences, but there is no difference between the levels of organizational empathy in these two universities.

### **Research methodology**

In terms of purpose and nature, this research is in the category of applicable research; and from the point of view of implementation, it is a descriptive-survey method. The statistical population of the research consists of experts and specialists in higher education and political development, and a purposeful sampling method was used to sample from this population. The research data collection tool in this section includes the use of a researcher-made questionnaire based on the dimensions and indicators identified and screened by experts, which has been used in the studied community after checking its validity and reliability. In this research, 18 experts have participated in the field of higher education and political development in Iran and Turkey.

### **Research findings**

SPSS software was used to analyze the data. The findings of the research showed that the higher education system has a significant effect on political development in several factors at the 0.01 level: policy making and planning of higher education development, internationalization of higher education, using the experiences of developed countries in higher education management, education expert force and improving the level of knowledge and literacy in the society through higher education, knowledge production in the higher education system, commercialization of university ideas in the higher education system and the connection of the university with industry and society, innovation system in higher education, technological innovations, development of educational technology, independence of universities, culture and citizenship education. Also, based on this research, some components of higher education affecting political development in Turkey have a more favorable situation than in the Islamic Republic of Iran: Using the experiences of developed countries in the management of higher education, training of expert staff and improving the level of knowledge and literacy in the society through higher education, producing knowledge in the higher education system, commercializing university ideas in the higher education system and connecting the university with industry and Society, innovation system in higher education, technological innovations, development of educational technology and independence of universities.

### **Conclusion**

The purpose of this research is the effect of higher education on political development; a comparative study which has been done in Iran and Turkey. The results of this research are consistent with the results of Shafiei Chafi & Mahdi (2022), Fischer & Hanze (2019),

Nithyanandam (2020), Evans (2020), Oztel (2020), and Shatzer (2021). In explaining the findings of the research, it can be said that higher education has an important economic role and influence, because it represents an important type of investment in human resources that is developed by providing and improving the knowledge, attitudes and skills required by human resources in different fields and areas; helps politically, economically, socially and culturally. The role and position of higher education in this field can be clarified when we pay attention to the fact that scientific predictions and estimates depict rapid changes and developments in the field of technology and, consequently, in the functioning of economic, political, social and cultural institutions.

Finally, based on the findings of this research, it is suggested:

1. Based on the findings of research and approval of higher education development policy and planning as a component of higher education, it is suggested that higher education policies and their implementation in universities and long-term and mid-term programs of higher education and their implementation in universities should be formulated.
2. Based on the research findings and confirmation of the internationalization of higher education as a component of higher education, it is suggested that international interactions with world universities be facilitated and international databases be created in the field of higher education.